



SPECIAL
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The Kansas City Missouri Police Department

New East Patrol, Crime Lab open

Hundreds of community members, police and city officials celebrated the grand opening of the new East Patrol Division station and Kansas City Regional Crime Laboratory with tours and a dedication ceremony on December 1.

“The community and our employees deserve these facilities,” Chief Darryl Forté said. “We needed a space where we could interact with and serve the community in this part of town, and now we have it. Our

employees deserve this, too. More than 210 police officers, scientists, staff and property and evidence technicians will be working on this campus. Before this, none of them has been in a building made to suit their needs.”

Community members – the Kansas City Star estimated as many as 1,000 attended the event from 1 to 6:30 p.m. Dec. 1 – had the opportunity to tour police facilities not normally open to the public. A showcase space highlighted the many organizations, community members and artists who contributed to the project.

“The design and construction of this campus is an unprecedented investment in the Third District of Kansas City, Missouri,” said Third District Kansas City Councilman Jermaine Reed.

The Crime Lab and East Patrol Division now occupy about 17 acres bounded by 26th Street on the north, 27th Street on the South, Brooklyn on the west and Prospect Avenue on the east. Work on the project began in 2011. The site previously contained a mixture of residential homes and vacant lots.

East Patrol already is operating out of the new station, and Crime Lab staff and equipment will move into their new building over the course of the first few months of 2016. Residents and businesses throughout East Patrol Division should not expect any change in response times with the change in the station’s location. Officers are dispatched from wherever they are on the streets, not from the station.

Neither the old East Patrol Division station at 27th and Van



Brunt nor the Crime Lab at 6633 Troost was designed for law enforcement use. The old East Patrol opened in 1951 as a radio station for the City of Kansas City. All city vehicles, including police cars, ambulances, public works trucks and more were dispatched from there on an FM radio band.

The building was retrofitted to be a police station in 1975. The old

Crime Lab moved to several different locations over the years, most recently in the late 1990s to a former pharmaceutical research facility. Conditions there were cramped and unsuited to the demands of forensic science and Kansas City’s caseload.

The new East Patrol Division is nearly twice the size of the old one at 36,200 square feet. This includes several spaces for public use, including a gymnasium, computer lab and community room. It was designed with input from officers to improve their efficiency and comfort. The new Crime Lab is approximately 57,600 square feet, which is 80 percent larger than the existing facility. The Kansas City Regional Crime Lab is one of only seven labs in the country to be accredited in eight different disciplines by the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors – Laboratory Accreditation Board. All of these disciplines – from Chemistry to Crime Scene Investigation – now have a state-of-the-art facility designed exclusively to meet their needs.

KCPD command staff will be working with the City in the

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Squad works overnight violent crimes

Before the creation of the Generalist Squad, violent crimes detectives working the over-night shift at KCPD often were either slammed or bored.

“Specialization creates inefficiencies in staffing when you only do certain things,” said Major David Lindaman, commander of the Violent Crimes Division, who pushed for the formation of the squad when he was captain of the Homicide Unit. “When those crimes aren’t occurring, you have unused human capital. ... You can’t put enough people in Crimes Against Children or Robbery to handle the busiest night. If you do, then you could end up with a whole bunch of people doing nothing the next night.”

One year ago, the Generalist Squad brought together eight dog-watch detectives and two sergeants from multiple units in the Violent Crimes Division – Homicide, Robbery, Domestic Violence and Crimes Against Children. No detectives came from Sex Crimes, but several of the Generalist Squad detectives have past experience working in that unit. Each brought their expertise and cross-trained the other members. Now, these members respond to violent crimes that occur roughly from 10 p.m. to 8 a.m. So far in 2015, that’s been an average of about four crime scenes a night.

They celebrated their success with a 1-year anniversary party on Dec. 6.

“It’s been a huge win – tremendously effective and efficient,” Major Lindaman said.

Squad members have heard that officers appreciate the squad’s responsiveness, which Major Lindaman said was one of the squad’s main goals: to better meet the needs of officers in the field who have overnight arrests. But there was skepticism at first.

Sergeant Kelly Hoover has been with the Generalist Squad since its inception.

“All of the detectives initially selected to come to the squad were



Current and former members of the Generalist Squad who celebrated the Squad’s first anniversary are, left to right, Front: Sgt. Matt Young, Dets. Brad Thomas, Todd Delato and Randy Evans. Back: Dets. Duston Burnett, Pat McKenzie, Kim Rice, Dawn Wilson, Sgts. Everett Babcock, Kelly Hoover and Clint Westgate

concerned about how it would work,” Sergeant Hoover said. “Some were even discussing going back to the field because they were not sure if they wanted the new challenge. Nobody likes change.”

That soon turned around. “Those detectives who voiced such strong opposition to forming a Generalist Squad are now some of our unit’s biggest supporters when people ask them how things are going,” Sergeant Hoover said. “That makes me feel like we are on the right track.”

Generalist Squad members respond to violent crime scenes to conduct the initial investigation.

“They go out and triage and do everything they can, and then they hand the case off to a specialized unit (like Robbery or Sex Crimes) for follow-up if the case isn’t all wrapped up that night,” Major Lindaman said.

Because of the variety of cases they see, Major Lindaman said Generalist Squad detectives are likely gaining more experience more rapidly than any other detectives in the Violent Crimes Division. In just five months, from July to November 2015, Generalist Squad members responded to the following crime scenes:

Although common in smaller agencies, neither Major Lindaman

52 homicides	27 crimes against children
38 sex crimes	23 suicides
117 robberies	26 dead bodies
254 assaults	5 missing persons
60 domestic violence incidents	19 other cases

nor Sergeant Hoover (with about 50 years of service combined) knows when KCPD last had a generalized squad of detectives.

Major Lindaman said the current squad has been so effective that it could probably use two additional detectives.

Governor honors Sergeant Greenwell



Sergeant Eric Greenwell, supervisor of the Career Criminal Squad, received a proclamation from Governor Jay Nixon on December 3 for the 29 years he has worked to prevent murders and kidnappings and keep guns and drugs off the streets of Kansas City. More than 100 people attended the proclamation ceremony, including the regional leaders of many federal law enforcement agencies. Sergeant Greenwell re-created KCPD’s Career Criminal Squad in 2001.

“He comes to work with the enthusiasm of a recruit but handles his investigations with the experience of a tenured sergeant,” said Captain Stephenie Price of the Drug Enforcement Unit. “That’s a rare combination.”

Sergeant Greenwell has no plans to retire any time soon.



next few months to determine whether the department will continue to use the former East Patrol and Crime Lab facilities.

The construction of the new East Patrol Division and Crime Lab was funded by the voter-approved, quarter-cent, public safety sales tax. The cost was approximately \$74 million, which included property acquisition, demolition, design, environmental cost, site prep, construction, furnishings and equipment. Placing both facilities on the same campus saved considerable costs.

The project was designed to serve as a redevelopment catalyst for Prospect Avenue and surrounding neighborhoods. It was governed by HUD Section 3 guidelines.

“There was considerable effort made to live up to the City’s commitment to leverage the project, to the greatest extent possible, to spark training, job and contract opportunities for Certified Section 3 residents and businesses – which means low or very-low income – as well as to increase participation by certified minority and women business enterprises,” Councilman Reed said.

More than 2,000 people were connected to job training programs and community resources throughout the course of the project. Multiple building projects are now underway in the neighborhood, from a community center to a grocery store.

The campus was designed by Helix Architecture + Design, in association with Wellner Architects. The Construction Management Team Lead was JE Dunn Construction / Alexander Mechanical, A Joint Venture.

The campus features numerous pieces of community-centric artwork. The One Percent for Art piece is by David Dahlquist and RDG Dahlquist Art Studio and contains numerous pieces of pottery created by community members. It is titled “We Are a Bowl: ‘Empty Earthen Vessels Waiting to be Filled.’” A history of African-American members of the Kansas City Police Department is featured on a wall in the community room, and lumber from trees that were removed from the site during demolition forms a mosaic on the community room’s opposing wall. In addition, there are two different glazed-brick “quilt” pieces on the façades, or the facilities’ “front porches” from the result of an art and architecture collaboration between Sonié Joi Thompson-Ruffin and Helix Architecture + Design.

More information about the project is available at <http://saferkc.com/east/>.



KCPD helps host a Royal Celebration



When the San Francisco Giants beat the Kansas City Royals in the final game of the World Series in 2014, there was rioting in the streets of San Francisco. Property was burned and police had to respond in riot gear. But when the Royals “Took the Crown” on Nov. 1, Kansas City responded by reveling in entertainment districts and taking selfies with KCPD officers. Chief Darryl Forté tweeted that not one arrest related to the celebration happened that night. Multiple national news organizations reported on Kansas City’s good behavior.

Kansas City won the Series against the Mets in Game 5 in New York City. While KCPD certainly had a lot to do during the first two games of the series that were at home, the department was about to meet one of its greatest challenges ever: the biggest celebration in the history of the State of Missouri (so proclaimed by Governor Jay Nixon) that would take place just two days later.

The “Royal Celebration” consisted of a parade through downtown at noon Nov. 3 followed by a rally at Union Station. Celebration planners were counting on about 250,000 people to come. But the actual attendance blew everyone away: the City of Kansas City estimated 800,000 fans came downtown to celebrate. All area school districts cancelled class, and many businesses shut down, as well. Thousands waited in line to take shuttles from throughout the metro area. And despite all the crowding and the waiting, police made only three arrests throughout the entire event. Among 800,000 people.

Officers spent far more time reuniting at least 90 lost children (that was the number brought to Union Station, anyway) with their parents and interacting with the crowd. KCPD’s social media was flooded with parade-goers thanking officers for their kindness. One officer let a woman recharge her disabled son’s breathing machine in his car. Others played catch with children who were waiting for the parade to begin. Officers took pictures for families and helped get children to bathrooms when the kids couldn’t make it through the crowd. Many parents just thanked KCPD officers for all the time they spent talking to their children and high-fiving the crowd. About 400 KCPD officers worked the event, supplemented by the Jackson County Sheriff’s Office and Missouri State Highway Patrol.

Some messages the public sent in to the Department included:

“I was one of a bazillion there. I appreciate every single one of you. Our city has a lot of things to be proud of, and you guys are at the top of the list.”

“We were at Union Station where the players walked into the building. All of the officers were amazing. They were kind. They were stern when necessary. They joked around and even tossed a beach ball to the crowd.”

“These officers were awesome high-fiving the kids and fans! Very interactive with the massive crowd! Way to go KCPD!”

And when Kansas City Police officers kicked off the start of the parade, the crowd cheered for them almost as loudly as they cheered for the Royals players who followed.



Photo courtesy Lathrop & Gage

Retiring major returns as K9 reserve

Major Robin Houston retired on December 19, but not really.

After 29 years of service with the Kansas City Missouri Police Department, 27 law enforcement and 2 civilian, Major Houston will serve in a reserve capacity with KCPD's Canine Unit. She will be assigned to work with both squads of the Unit and assist with training.

For the past 14 years, Houston has been working with canines by volunteering with the Missouri Search and Rescue K9 Unit (MOSAR) in her spare time. She has two dogs of her own.

Millie is a 4-year-old Border Collie who has been certified as a cadaver dog since she was a year old. Her personality is very task-oriented and focused. She loves her job and equally loves her tennis ball and other toys. She's not much of a cuddler, but that's OK because 1-year-old Clarice makes up for it.

"Clarice is much more the social lover of the two," Houston said.

About a year ago, Houston spent \$700 on the then-8-week-old Bloodhound puppy she named after FBI Agent Clarice Starling of "The Silence of the Lambs" movie. A fully trained dog can cost from \$10,000 to \$12,000.

Both Houston and Clarice began training immediately and extensively. The North American Police Working Dogs Association, or NAPWDA, certified Clarice as a trailing dog on December 5. After initial certification, dogs must re-certify yearly to be deployable.

Houston said she initially became involved with search and rescue with her sister, Crime Scene Investigation Supervisor Melanie Fields. Both were interested, but Houston had to wait until her kids were older because of the time involved. In the meantime, they were able to observe MOSAR, and once the kids grew up, they got their first dogs and became members.

Another driving force for Houston was the fact that her grandfather suffered from Alzheimer's disease and would walk away, as do some autistic children.

"Why I really wanted to do it was that my grandfather had Alzheimer's, and I was always very interested in helping others who have relatives with illnesses that result in them wandering or getting lost," Houston said. "I like to be outside, and I love dogs and

I wanted to do something that was worthwhile and to give back. I thought a search and rescue unit was something that was important and something that could save lives."

The all-volunteer Missouri Search and Rescue K9 Unit consists of a 14-member search and rescue team with seven certified live-find or air-scent dogs, two trailing dogs and seven human remains or cadaver dogs. They assist all over the Midwest, primarily in Missouri and Kansas. They've also helped in Arkansas and in the recent flooding in Texas. In 2015, the unit was involved in 44 searches, resulting in 8 recoveries. Fifteen of those searches were for KCPD.

MOSAR will only respond when requested by police, fire and emergency services agencies. Individuals requesting MOSAR's services are referred to their nearest agency to begin the proper procedures. There is never a charge for services provided.

MOSAR assisted in several fire searches in 2015. At the beginning of this year, a woman in south Kansas City perished in a fire and the unit assisted in the recovery of her body. At a farm house fire up north involving three children and their babysitter, they assisted with the recovery of a baby's body. And they recently spent a week on the scene of a fire that caused two firefighter fatalities in the Old Northeast, running the human remains (cadaver) dogs when requested in case a homeless person might have perished in the fire.

During her tenure with MOSAR, Houston worked her way up to the training officer position, which she has held for the past five years. She didn't have any formal training; she just worked many hours with past training officers and attended lots of search and rescue seminars to expand on new ideas and training tools.

She said, "I'm the training officer, and all the dogs are my kids. I'm very proud of



Major Robin Houston preparing to work search and rescue with her bloodhound, Clarice.

them. They do a good job."

Houston shared some of her favorite experiences from this year. One was at John Knox Village where a tiny, elderly lady had walked away. She suffered from COPD and wouldn't survive long without her oxygen. She had been gone for two to three hours. Lee's Summit Police and John Knox security had already searched before contacting MOSAR. MOSAR deployed human remains dogs to search around a lake. Live-find dogs also were deployed to check around buildings. About five minutes later, handler Carrie Grove and Jewel, a 12-year-old Weimaraner, found the woman alive. She had fallen behind some bushes and was unable to get up or call out.

Another incident was in August in Kansas City, Kansas. The unit was searching under an overpass for human remains and by the time Houston could move her vehicle to another area, Sadie, who had just been certified this spring, found the remains. Sadie, a 2-year-old Belgian Malinois, belongs to handler Darrin Niemeier, a Kansas City Fire Department captain and brother to KCPD's Sergeant Doug Niemeier. Houston said she is

"I like to be outside, I love dogs and I want to give back."

**- Major Robin Houston
Patrol Bureau**

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Officially Speaking

Awards

Special Unit Citation

Interdiction Squad:

Tactical Response Team 1
Tactical Response Team 2
Tactical Response Team 3
Communications Unit

Highway Shooter Investigation

1005 Assault Squad
Career Criminal Squad
CSI Section
Digital Technology Section
DNA Section
Drug Enforcement Undercover Squad
Drug Enforcement Unit
Financial Investigations Squad
Fingerprint Identification Section
Firearms Section
Gang Squad
1030 Homicide Squad
Homicide Unit
Illegal Firearms Squad
Intelligence Unit
Investigations Bureau Office
Kansas City Terrorism Early Warning Center
Law Enforcement Resource Center
Media Unit
Metro Meth Squad
Narcotics and Vice Division
North Patrol Division
Patrol Bureau Special Projects Office
Perpetrator Information Center Teams 1 and 2
Real Time Crime Center
Regional Criminalistics Division
Sex Crimes Section
South Patrol Division
South Patrol Property Crimes Section
Street Crimes Unit
Street Crimes Undercover Squad
Tactical Enforcement Squads 1910 and 1920
Trace Evidence Section
Violent Crimes Division Office

Life-Saving Award

Sergeant Billy Dotson
Officer Mark Kepler
Officer Kelly Sapp
Officer Charles Owen

Meritorious Service Award

Sergeant Jason Cote
Officer Angeleic Huth
Officer Ryan Kaighen
Officer Douglas King
Officer Charles Owen
Officer Howard Periman
Officer Daniel Watts

Certificate of Commendation

Major David Lindaman
Captain Sondra Zink
Sergeant Benjamin Caldwell
Sergeant Eric Greenwell
Sergeant Paul Hamilton
Sergeant Christopher Price
Officer Kenneth Allen
Officer Robert Ballowe
Officer Michael Feagans
Officer Samantha Parkhurst
Officer Robin Reynolds
Detective Blake Groves
Detective Chad Herriman
Detective Dawn Jones
Forensic Specialist Alexis Lalli

Purple Heart

Detective Bradley Bailey

Distinguished Service Medal

Sergeant Mark Hockemeier
Sergeant Jason Rusley
Officer Trent Finnell
Officer Deryck Galloway
Officer Darren King
Officer Patrick Moss
Officer Mark Wilson
Officer Steven Walker
Detective Anthony Castelletto
Detective Jason Findley
Reserve Officer Donald Carter

25-Year Rings

Detective Charles Bax, Jr.
Master Detective Kelly Bermond
Sergeant Monica Blackmore
Officer Thomas Cannon II
Sergeant Martin Cobbinah
Detective John Cooley, Jr.
Captain Gregory Dull
Major Mark Francisco
Sergeant Shane Hurst
Officer James Kreicbergs
Detective Brent Marchant
Administrative Assistant Jewell McClelland
Captain Shawn Nichols
Detective Danny Phillips
Sergeant Deborah Randol
Sergeant Steven Seward
Detective Ray Staley
Sergeant James Vaca
Forensic Specialist Gregory VanRyn
Sergeant Saadia Wilson

Obituaries

Retired Sergeant Leonard Gee
Retired Sergeant William Miller
Retired Sergeant Thomas Theison
Retired Officer Frank Brumfield
Retired Officer Arthur Holman
Retired Officer Curry Bates
Retired Detective Sylvester Young
Retired Civilian James Davis

Upcoming Events

January 12
Board of Police
Commissioners Meeting

January 30
Polar Plunge for Special
Olympics Missouri

February 11
25-Year Ring Ceremony

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Houston Retires, CONT. FROM P. 6



Major Houston's other search and rescue dog, Millie.

feels fortunate to be promoted. She said moving up the ranks has been fulfilling and enjoyable; and she appreciates the ability to mentor and help people on the department.

"I feel extremely lucky that working for the PD has allowed me to now be able to pursue my passion with the search and rescue," she said. "At this stage in my life, it's allowed me to do exactly what I want to do."

And, if the Chief will allow her to mentor others, she will be able to do all the fun things she'd done before, but not the paperwork. Win, win.

very proud and excited for them since this was Sadie's first find.

With Clarice's recent certification, she hasn't had the opportunity to work yet, although she came close. A 15-year-old Belton boy with autism went missing in mid-December, but he was located before Clarice had the chance to help.

Houston said she is so excited the Chief is allowing her to stay on as a reserve with the Canine Unit and that the Canine sergeants are interested in working with her. She said she is extremely eager to learn from the canine officers because they have expertise in working canines, and she hopes to learn training tools she can take back to the MOSAR volunteers. She also hopes the addition of her trailing bloodhound and cadaver dog will prove to be a valuable resource to the Canine Unit.

Clarice also will go with the Canine Unit to school and event demonstrations. She is people-friendly and can be petted, which is not always possible with police dogs trained in apprehending suspects.

Major Houston says what she loves at KCPD has been the variety of people – both department members and other community members – she has met and worked with. She also

The mission of the
Kansas City Missouri
Police Department
is to protect and serve
with professionalism,
honor and integrity.